

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: AREA CODE 319 RELIEF PLAN	DOCKET NO. SPU-99-30
---	----------------------

**ORDER TAKING OFFICIAL NOTICE
AND ASKING QUESTIONS**

(Issued June 6, 2000)

Pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.14(4) (1999), the Utilities Board (Board) is taking official notice of four possible area code split maps, attached to this order as Alternative Nos. 10, 11, 12, and 16. These attachments are new maps, prepared by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) at the request of Board staff, showing various possible splits of the 319 area code that were not considered by the 319 telephone industry and that are not a part of NANPA's petition. The Board is taking notice of these alternatives and inviting public comment on these maps in addition to the maps attached to the petition.

This action does not mean the Board has decided on a split, rather than an overlay, for relief in this docket. These alternatives are the result of requests from the interested public, who sought consideration of a three-way split (Alternative No. 10), a "straight line" split (Alternative No. 11), a split that affects the minimum number of EAS routes (Alternative No. 12), and a split that keeps Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Davenport, Iowa City, and Muscatine in the same area code (Alternative No. 16).

The NANPA maps attached to the petition and to this order (and available on the Board's web site, <http://www.state.ia.us/government/com/util/orders.htm>)

represent exchange boundaries in a somewhat simplified manner. Larger maps with more precise exchange boundaries are available for public inspection at the Board's offices at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa. The representative boundaries of the NANPA maps appear to be sufficient for present purposes, however, and the Board intends to rely upon these maps unless a specific problem is identified.

The Board emphasizes that taking official notice of these maps should not be taken as any indication that the Board is inclined toward any of these options for relief in the 319 area code. The Board will not make any decision regarding the appropriate form of area code relief until all of the evidence has been received. The goal is to develop an adequate record in this docket in an efficient manner, and it is likely the record will be improved if the participants can make their written statements with respect to specific proposals, rather than a generalized concept without specified boundaries.

At the same time, however, the Board will encourage participants to focus their comments and testimony on the most likely alternatives. Some of the alternatives considered by the industry, specifically Alternative Nos. 3, 5, and 7 (corrected¹), appear to have projected lives that are so imbalanced that they are not realistic alternatives. This does not mean the Board is rejecting these alternatives at this time, but unless some compelling support for one or more of these alternatives is offered in the record, it appears they are not likely to be selected, if the Board decides to implement a split.

¹ After the petition was filed, NANPA corrected the projected lives for Alternative No. 7. The original projections were 9.1 and 9.9 years, but the corrected projections are 6.4 and 14.9 years.

The Board is also taking official notice of a new NANPA forecast 319 area code. At the time the Board docketed this matter, NANPA projected the 319 area code would run out of central office codes in the third quarter of 2002. On May 23, 2000, NANPA released a new forecast that the 319 area code will exhaust its supply of central office codes in the fourth quarter of 2001. The Board will take official notice of this updated forecast, which is likely to affect the implementation dates of whatever form of relief the Board selects.

QUESTIONS

Each participant should address each of the following general questions regarding area code relief and the advantages and disadvantages of the different options available to the Board. This information is for the use of the Board and the participants. The Board also encourages participants to avail themselves of the Board's discovery procedures pursuant to 199 IAC 7.7(1)" c," which are hereby made applicable to this proceeding.

1. Please consider each of the area code split options before the Board and comment on the appropriateness of the proposed new area code boundaries in each of the most likely alternatives, i.e., the alternatives other than numbers 3, 5, and 7.

2. Some state commissions that have implemented an area code split have decided to leave the existing area code with the region having the greater level of commercial and governmental activity and assigned the new area code to the other region, to minimize the total public expense associated with implementation of a new area code. Please comment on whether this

would be an appropriate principle for the Board to apply in the 319 area code and, if possible, indicate how you believe the area codes should be assigned in each of the likely alternatives, stating the reasons for your opinion.

3. Please identify any protected central office codes in the 319 area code of which you may be aware and indicate why they should or should not continue to be protected in the future. Please indicate the related exchange names, the purpose of protecting the codes, the number of lines in use in each affected exchange, the calling scope for the affected exchanges, and any other information you believe the Board should consider in reviewing protected central office codes.

4. Please provide the estimated cost for your company associated with implementation of each split option and the geographic overlay option. If your estimated costs differ for the various split options, please explain the cause or causes of the difference. If you believe any particular option cannot be implemented for some reason, please explain, in detail, the basis of your belief.

5. For each of the most likely split options, please provide a list of all EAS routes between the resulting area codes, which would be affected by the split. Please identify any unusual problems any split alternative may present.

6. Please comment on the appropriate customer educational efforts that should be taken in connection with implementation of area code relief. In particular, please comment on the appropriate method for funding

such efforts. Further, if you have prepared any customer notices or education materials for use in connection with any area code relief measures, please provide copies.

ORDERING CLAUSES

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.14(4), the Board takes official notice of the proposed area code split maps attached to this order as Alternative Nos. 10, 11, 12, and 16, for the purposes described in the body of this order and for such other purposes as may be appropriate. The Board also takes official notice of the revised forecast for the 319 area code released by NANPA on May 23, 2000.
2. All participants in this proceeding shall respond to the questions set forth in the body of this order as a part of their initial statements.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 6th day of June, 2000.